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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/971,892	10/05/2001	Mark Joseph Rechtsteiner	13DV13701	4016

6111 7590 08/25/2004
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
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EXAMINER

VAUGHN, GREGORY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/971,892	RECHTSTEINER ET AL. <i>SL</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gregory J. Vaughn	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2001 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>10/5/01</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Application History

1. This action is responsive to the application filing, Application filed on 10/5/2001.
2. Applicant submits Information disclosure statement on 10/5/2001.
3. Claims 1-18 are pending in the case, claims 1 and 12 are independent claims.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:
 - “12” on page 3, line 28
 - “Q0-Q10” on page 6, lines 5, 20 and 23; and page 7, line 3.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- The disclosure recites “*central website 14*” (page 3, lines 13, 16, 20, 29 and 30; page 4, lines 4, 5 and 14). Reference sign 14 of Figure 1 is directed toward “*Central Server*”.
- The disclosure recites “*website 14*” (page 4, lines 23, 26, 29, 30 and 32; page 5, line 2). Reference sign 14 of Figure 1 is directed toward “*Central Server*”.
- The disclosure recites those reference signs listed in paragraph 4 above, which are not shown in the drawings.

Appropriate correction is required.

6. The use of the following trademarks has been noted in this application:

- “*Java*” on page 2, line 21.
- “*Excel*” on page 5, line 32.

It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner, which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

"The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention."
8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
9. Claim 8 recites: "A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein ..." (page 10, line 1). A claim that is dependent upon itself is improper. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

"A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language."

11. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chauhan et al. US Publication 2003/0004909, filed 6/29/2001, published 1/2/2003 (hereinafter Chauhan).

12. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Chauhan discloses a server configured with a repository. Chauhan recites: "*referring to FIG. 1, the data repository 102 may reside on a server computer system*" (page 12, paragraph 120). Chauhan further discloses the repository storing questions and answers. Chauhan recites: "*The data repository 102 is used to store data associated with each system administrator, each registered user, each registered expert, the Subject Matter Category Index, and all conversations*" (page 3, paragraph 57). Chauhan defines a conversation as "*an enhanced knowledge management system (a "KMS"). The enhanced KMS provides a customizable, person-to-person, knowledge sharing portal that manages concurrent one-on-one conversations between requesters and expert resources. Each conversation comprises knowledge that is captured by the KMS into a knowledge base that is searchable by others*" (page 1, paragraph 7).

Chauhan discloses the at least one computer in Figure 1 at reference sign 106 (additional computers are discloses at reference signs 101, 107 and 109). Chauhan further discloses in Figure 1 the at least one computer connected to the server. Chauhan disclose the interface between the at least one computer and the server in Figures 5-21, and Figures 23-34 (Figure 5 is

the login screen, subsequent figures disclose various features of the educational system).

13. **Regarding dependent claim 2**, Chauhan discloses the use of a password-protected system in Figure 5, at reference sign 503 (shown as “*Desired Password*”).

14. **Regarding dependent claim 3**, Chauhan discloses intellectual property sharing topics in Figure 6 at reference sign 602 (shown as “*Inventors and Inventions*” as a category in the list shown).

15. **Regarding dependent claim 4**, Chauhan discloses multiple users. Chauhan recites: “*The CM 101 facilitates conversations between each user 106 and each expert 107*” (page 3, paragraph 57).

16. **Regarding dependent claims 5 and 6**, Chauhan discloses a repository for an owner and users internal to the owner. Chauhan recites: “*computer-aided-information (CAI) systems that allow users to document existing applications, or manufacturing procedures, within a company (or other community)*” (page 1, paragraph 5).

17. **Regarding dependent claim 7**, Chauhan discloses the use of web pages in Figure 5. Transmission of web pages is shown in Figure 1 as a connection between the computers in the figure (computers shown at reference signs 106, 101, 107 and 109).

18. **Regarding dependent claim 8**, the claim is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention (as described above).
19. **Regarding dependent claim 9**, Chauhan discloses the use of text and digital pictures in Figure 5.
20. **Regarding dependent claim 10**, Chauhan discloses a repository as a database. Chauhan recites: "*the enhanced KMS integrates existing databases with knowledge that is captured by the ongoing conversations*" (page 1, paragraph 9).
21. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, the claim is rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of the base claims.
22. **Regarding claims 12-15**, the claims are directed toward a method for the system of claims 1-4, respectively, and are rejected using the same rationale.
23. **Regarding claims 16-18**, the claims are directed toward a method for the system of claims 9-11, respectively, and are rejected using the same rationale.

Conclusion

24. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

<u>Patent</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
• US-5,892,900	04-1999	Ginter et al.
• US-6,170,014	01-2001	Darago et al.
• US-6,237,786	05-2001	Ginter et al.
• US-6,282,573	08-2001	Darago et al.
• US-6,427,140	07-2002	Ginter et al.
• US-6,473,794	10-2002	Guheen et al.
• US-6,606,664	08-2003	Darago et al.
• US-6,615,166	09-2003	Guheen et al.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (703) 305-4672. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (703) 308-5465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn
August 20, 2004



STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER